

PROCEEDINGS
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DESCRIPTIONS OF TWO NEW VENEZUELAN BIRDS
AND DISTRIBUTIONAL NOTES

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Besides the new forms described here from our collection, we have added some taxonomic and distributional data which we consider of interest. We wish to thank the Curators of the American Museum of Natural History, British Museum, Carnegie Museum, Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Pons Collection (Maracaibo), Rancho Grande Biological Station and U. S. National Museum for access to the collections of these institutions and for their aid in our research.

Specimens listed are in the Phelps Collection, Caracas, unless otherwise specified. Names of colors are capitalized when direct comparison has been made with Ridgway's "Color Standards and Color Nomenclature," 1912. Wing measurements are of the chord.

Leucopternis schistacea (Sundevall)

Asturina schistacea Sundevall, Ofv. K. Vet—Akad. Förh., 7, p. 132, nota, 1850. (Rio Negro, Brazil.)

1 ♂, San Fernando de Atabapo; 1 ♂ imm., Cerro Yapacana, Terr. Amazonas; in forest at 110 meters. These are the only specimens known from Venezuela. The immature male is similar to the all slate adult except that the abdomen, under tail-coverts, under wing-coverts and inner webs of the remiges are barred with white.

Ortalis ruficauda ruficrissa (Selater and Salvin)

In our "Lista de las Aves de Venezuela con su Distribución" (Vol. 2, Part 1, Non Passeres, May, 1958) we have considered *O. ruficrissa* to be conspecific with *O. ruficauda* (Jardine) because of twelve specimens in our collection from the eastern shore of Lake Maracaibo. These are 1 ♂ from Mene Grande, 1 ♂ from Río Aurare (Palmarejo) and ten complete tails from mutilated specimens also from Mene Grande.

The only noticeable difference between the former species *ruficrissa* and *ruficauda* is that the former has white tips to the tail feathers and the latter rufous ones. The twelve specimens mentioned above have the tips to the tails intermediate in color, more or less buffy instead of

either white or rufous. The two forms have not been found together. Typical *ruficauda* is found at Quebrada Arriba, Lara, at the foot of Cerro El Cerrón, at a distance of forty miles to the northeast of Mene Grande and typical *O. ruficauda baliolus* Osgood and Conover (formerly *O. ruferrissa baliolus*) occurs at a similar distance to the south.

A specimen in the American Museum of Natural History from twenty miles north of Cúcuta, Colombia, collected by Hermano Nicéforo María, also has the tip of the tail intermediate in color. Another specimen in the collection of Hermano Nicéforo María from Petrólea, fifty miles north of Cúcuta, has the tail typically *baliolus*, thus indicating the instability of this character in the area where the two forms meet.

Rynchops nigra nigra Linné

We can find only one valid record of this migrant for Venezuela. Mr. J. D. Macdonald, Deputy Keeper-Zoology, of the British Museum, writes to us that the only specimen of *R. n. nigra* in the Museum is the one collected by Lowe at the Laguna Grande del Obispo, Golfo de Cariaco, on January 14, 1904. At the same time Lowe collected a specimen of *R. n. cinerascens* Spix, the common Venezuelan resident. The Museum has two other specimens of *cinerascens* collected at other times from the same locality.

When Lowe visited the same locality again on the yacht *Zenaída* on January 3, 1908, he reported¹ "*Rynchops nigra* present in enormous quantities." Apparently he did not collect any specimens as they are not in the British Museum. As the two forms are so similar, we do not doubt that the "enormous quantities" were the common form in Venezuela, *cinerascens*, and not the apparently rare migrant known in Venezuela from one specimen.

Aëronauts noctivagus (d'Orbigny and Lafresnaye)

Cypselus montivagus d'Orbigny and Lafresnaye, Rev. Zool., p. 70, 1837. (Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia.)

1 ♂, Rancho Grande (1100 m.), Aragua; 1 ♀, Pico de Naiguatá (2600 m.), Miranda; 1 [♀], Curupao (1200 m.), Guarenas; 4 ♂, 1 [♂], 2 ♀, Cerro Duida (1900 m.), Terr. Amazonas; 3 ♀, Cerro Yapacana (1300 m.).

In 1929, Chapman² described *Duidia tatei* on one specimen from Mount Duida. Later,³ in 1931 he changed the name to *Aëronauts montivagus tatei* (Chapman). Since then, we have collected seven more specimens from Duida and three from nearby Cerro Yapacana and have examined in the U. S. National Museum 1 ♀ and 1 imm. from Serra Imeri on the Brazilian frontier, and in the American Museum of Natural History 2 ♂ from Cerro Auyan-tepui. So there are in all 15 specimens of former *tatei* from southern Venezuela.

Now, with those fifteen specimens available, we find that *tatei* cannot be separated from the twenty-four specimens of *montivagus* in the Car-

¹Notes on some Birds collected during a cruise in the Caribbean Sea. Ibis, p. 322, 1909.

²Descriptions of New Birds from Mt. Duida. American Museum Novitates. No. 380. p. 11, Oct. 21.

³The Upper Zonal Birds of Mounts Roraima and Duida. Bulletin American Museum of Natural History, 63, pp. 68-70.

negie Museum nor from the four in our collection from the north coast mountains of Venezuela. Consequently there is only one form in Venezuela, which we have not been able to separate from the very few specimens from Perú and Bolivia which we have examined: in the American Museum of Natural History, 1 ♂, 1 ♀, from Vermejo, Bolivia; 1 ♀, Urubamba Cañon, Perú; and in the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, 1 ♀, Junín, Perú.

Other specimens which we know of but have not examined: Pons Collection, Maracaibo, 1 ♀, El Escondido, Perijá; Rancho Grande Biological station, 2 ♂, 1 ♀; Paris Museum, the mounted type; probably in the Berlepsch Collection in Frankfort, 1 specimen from Huaynapata, Perú, and in the Warsaw Museum, collected by Jelski and Stolzmann, five from Perú from Lima, Huambo, Huanta, Monterico and Pumamarca.

Leucippus fallax (Bourcier)

The senior author examined two specimens from "Cayenne" in the Paris Museum and found them similar to *L. f. richmondi* Cory from the coast of northeastern Venezuela. They form part of a collection made in French Guiana by M. F. Geay during 1900 and 1902. Ménégau⁴ 1904: 114 cites these specimens "sans lieu précis d'origine," as do Berlepsch⁵ 1908: 265 and Simon⁶ 1921: 318. Berlepsch *idem* "—also a true Cayenne skin from the Gould collection in the British Museum," and Simon *idem* cites a specimen in the British Museum but the senior author did not find it there in 1951.

Peters 1945: 59 limits the range of the species to Venezuela and Colombia. It is characteristic of the Caribbean Fauna of Chapman⁷ which comprises the arid Caribbean littoral from northeastern Colombia to Carúpano at the base of the Peninsula of Paria. Inasmuch as these specimens lack precise localities and dates, and as the species is not known from southeastern Venezuela, nor from British or Dutch Guiana, we believe that they may be commercial skins from another locality, probably from the northeastern coast of Venezuela.

***Hypnelus ruficollis striaticollis*, new subspecies**

Type: From Dabajuro, Estado Falcón, Venezuela. No. 7429, Phelps Collection, Caracas. Adult male collected March 22, 1940, at sea level, by Fulvio Benedetti. (Type on deposit at the American Museum of Natural History.)

Diagnosis: Differs from all other subspecies of *H. ruficollis* (Wagler) by having more or less prominent black lines across the lower throat, and occasionally black bases to these feathers, instead of having the lower throat immaculate as in *ruficollis*, *decolor* Todd and *coloratus* Ridgway, or with a solid black band as in *bicinctus* (Gould) and *stoicus* Wetmore.

⁴Catalogue des Oiseaux rapportés par M. Geay de la Guyane française et du Contaté franco-brésilien. Bulletin du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, No. 3, pp. 107-118, et No. 4, 174-185.

⁵On the Birds of Cayenne. Novitates Zoologicae, 15, No. 1, pp. 103-164. No. 2, pp. 263-324.

⁶Histoire Naturelle des Trochilidae. pp. 1-416. Paris.

⁷The Distribution of Bird Life in Colombia. Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., 36, pp. 1-729.

Range: Known from the Caribbean coast region from Quisiro, Zulia to Dabajuro, Falcón; at sea level.

Description of Type: Upper parts nearest to Bister; top of head faintly lined with buffy; back and wings mottled with buffy white; upper tail-coverts black, barred with buffy; a semi-concealed white collar across nape; forehead against bill buffy white; lores and ear-coverts white, latter with black tips; wide maxillary stripe brownish black. Under parts Light Ochraceous-Buff; lower throat heavily lined with black on a buffy white ground, some of the feathers with black bases, thus forming an indistinct band; lower breast with a broad brownish black band; flanks mottled with brownish black; axillaries brownish black. Outer margins of more central primaries with median buffy white patches; other remiges lightly margined basally with buffy white, more extensively so towards tertials; bend of wing Light Ochraceous-Buff; under wing-coverts buffy white. Tail darker than Natal Brown, paler on under surface, the feathers lightly margined with buffy white.

Bill (in life) "black"; feet "gray"; iris "yellow." Wing, 86 mm.; tail, 78; exposed culmen, 28; tarsus, 19.

Remarks: Sexes alike. Size similar to *decolor*. Range of measurements: five adult males, including type—wing 83-86 (84.4) mm.; tail, 75-80 (77.8); exposed culmen, 27-31 (29.2); five adult females—wing, 85-87 (86.7); tail, 79-82 (80); exposed culmen, 30-33 (30.8). Measurements of *H. r. decolor*: five adult males—wing, 82-90 (85.8) tail, 73-82 (77.6); exposed culmen, 27.5-30 (28.9); five adult females—wing, 86-91 (87.8); tail, 81-86 (83.6); exposed culmen, 30-33 (31.6).

This local race, with the incipient black band across the lower throat, is intermediate between the one banded form *H. ruficollis* and the two banded form *H. bicinctus*. The only difference between the two is the lack of the second band in *ruficollis*. Their ranges do not overlap.

We have in our collection a male specimen of *bicinctus* from Ciudad Bolívar, very far removed from the range of *ruficollis*, which is similar to the type of the new *striaticollis*, with the same incipient throat band, lined instead of solid black. These specimens indicate that the hitherto so called species are conspecific, *bicinctus* being a subspecies of *ruficollis*.

Specimens Examined

H. r. ruficollis.—VENEZUELA: Perijá region (var. locs.), Zulia, 8 ♂, 3 ♀; La Fría, Táchira, 1 ♂; Mene Grande, Zulia, 1 ♂, 7 ♀, 2 (?). COLOMBIA: Lorica, 1⁸; Gamarra, 1⁸; Santa Marta, 20⁸; Santa Marta, 22⁹.

H. r. decolor.—VENEZUELA: Paraguaipoa, Zulia, 6 ♂, 2 ♀; Cojoro, 1 ♂; Río Socuy (El Aral), 1 ♀; Santa Cruz de Mara, 1 ♂; Maracaibo, 1 (?); Río Aurare, 3 ♂, 1 ♀, 1 (?); Cabimas, 1 ♂, 1 ♀; Peninsula Paraguaná (var. locs.), Falcón, 11 ♂, 15 ♀, 1 (?); Quiuragua, 1 ♂. COLOMBIA: Río Hacha, 6⁹.

H. r. coloratus.—VENEZUELA: Santa Bárbara, Zulia, 4 ♂, 5 ♀; El Vigía, Mérida, 3 ♂; Dividivi, Trujillo, 1 ♂, 2 ♀.

H. r. striaticollis.—VENEZUELA: Quisiro, Zulia, 1 ♂; Casigua, Falcón, 3 ♂; Dabajuro, 3 ♂ (inc. type), 6 ♀.

⁸Specimens in American Museum of Natural History.

⁹Specimens in Carnegie Museum.

H. r. bicinctus.—VENEZUELA: Quebrada Arriba, Lara, 2 ♂, 3 ♀, 1 (♂); Carora, 1 ♀, 1 (?); San Felipe, Yaracuy, 2 ♂; Nirgua, 1 ♂; Urama, Carabobo, 1 ♂, 4 ♀; La Victoria, Aragua, 1 ♂, 2 ♀; San Antonio de Yare, Miranda, 1 ♂; Carenero, 2 ♀; Tacarigua de Mamporal, 1 ♂; Barcelona, Anzoátegui, 1 ♂, 2 ♀; Puerto de la Cruz, 1 ♀; Cumaná, Sucre, 1 ♂, 1 ♀; San Antonio del Golfo, 2 ♀; Edo. Barinas, 2 ♂, 1 ♀; Guasdalito, Apure, 2 ♂, 3 ♀; El Baúl, Cojedes, 2 ♂, 1 ♀; Edo. Guárico, 7 ♂, 2 ♀; Maturin, Monagas, 1 ♂, 3 ♀, 2 (?); Terr. Delta Amacuro, 3 ♂, 3 ♀; Edo. Bolívar, 16 ♂, 12 ♀, 1 ♂ juv.; Terr. Amazonas, 2 ♂, 3 ♀.

H. r. stoicus.—VENEZUELA: Isla de Margarita, 9 ♂, 5 ♀, 2 (?).

Pteroglossus formosus Cabanis

Pteroglossus formosus Cabanis, Journ. Orn., p. 332, 1862. ("Venezuela".) Known only from the type in the Zoologisches Museum in Berlin, No. 9726. Prof. Dr. Erwin Stresemann wrote to us that it had been presented to the Museum by the botanist D. F. L. von Schlechtendal, probably before the year 1833; that it is marked as collected in Venezuela but that von Schlechtendal never went abroad and that he probably obtained the specimen from some collector; that the locality "Venezuela" is doubtful and that probably the type of *P. formosus* came from southeastern Brazil. Dr. Zimmer wrote to us that he believed that the supposed Venezuelan origin of the type was in error.

The range of the supposed species has also been given as Venezuela by Brabourne and Chubb (The Birds of South America, p. 158, 1912), Catalogue of Birds in the British Museum (19, p. 139, 1891) and Cory (Catalogue of Birds of the Americas, p. 368, 1919). Peters does not list the name in his Birds of the World.

Inasmuch as Cabanis, in the original description, made comparisons with *P. aracari* (Linné) and *P. wiedi* Sturm (a synonym of *P. aracari*) it is probable that the unique specimen of *P. formosus* is referable to one of the Brazilian subspecies of *P. aracari*. We deny the Venezuelan occurrence of the species.

Thripadectes flammulatus flammulatus (Eyton)

Anabates flammulatus Eyton, Contri. Orn., p. 131, 1849. ("New Grenada" = Bogotá.)

1 (?) imm., Río Chiquito, Hda. La Providencia, Táchira (southwestern), collected February 25, 1956; 1900 meters, in forest in Subtropical Zone.

This specimen, fully grown, extends the range of the subspecies from Colombia to Venezuela. It has been recorded from the Colombian part of nearby Páramo de Tamá.

The species has been hitherto known in Venezuela from at least four specimens of *T. f. briennoi* Berlepsch from the páramos de la Culata, de Conejos and Escorial, in the Mérida Andes.

Thripadectes virgaticeps tachirensis, new subspecies

Type: From Río Chiquito, Hda. La Providencia, Estado Táchira, Venezuela; 2100 meters. No. 62178, Phelps Collection, Caracas. Adult male collected March 7, 1956, by Ramón Urbano. (Type on deposit at the American Museum of Natural History.)

Diagnosis: Nearest to *T. v. klagesi* (Hellmayr and Seilern) of the Cen-

tral Coast Range of the Caracas region but has darker under parts, more ochraceous, less yellowish; a dusky wash across the breast; darker back, more brownish, less yellowish tint; rump and upper tail-coverts darker, more brownish, less reddish.

Range: Known from southwestern Táchira, in the Páramo Tamá region, in the forests of the Subtropical Zone at altitudes of 1250 and 2100 meters.

Description of Type: Top of head dark brownish olive, feathers with whitish shafts bordered by grayish, less dusky on nape; back nearest to Prout's Brown; rump and upper tail-coverts Burnt Sienna. Chin and throat nearest to Raw Sienna, feathers margined with blackish forming a diamond pattern, merging into the dusky olive breast and sides, these feathers with fine buffy shaft lines; this in turn merging into the more olivaceous abdomen; flanks and shanks more brownish; under tail-coverts more rufous olivaceous. Wings uniform with back; inner margins of remiges cinnamon, only basally on primaries; bend of wing, under wing-coverts and axillaries Xanthine Orange. Tail Mahogany Red, under surface paler and feathers with buffy shafts.

Bill (in life) "black"; feet "greenish gray"; iris "dark". Wing, 93 mm.; tail, 89; exposed culmen, 23; culmen from base, 27; tarsus, 26.

Remarks: Sexes alike. Size similar to *T. v. klagesi*. Range of measurements, including type: one adult male, see above; one adult female—wing, 86 mm.; tail, 88; culmen from base, 26. Measurements of *T. v. klagesi*: two adult males—wing, 86-90 (88); tail, 92-93 (92.5); culmen from base, 26; three adult females—wing, 87-88 (87.7); tail, 90-94 (92.3); culmen from base, 25-26 (25.7); one adult of undetermined sex—wing, 89; tail, 92; culmen from base, 25.

There are 12 additional specimens of *klagesi* from various localities in Perijá in the Pons Collection, Maracaibo, which we have not had occasion to examine.

Specimens Examined

T. v. virgaticeps.—ECUADOR: Quito, 1 (?)¹⁰; Gualea⁸, 1 ♂, 1 ♀.

T. v. sumaco.—ECUADOR⁸: Sumaco Abajo, 2 ♂; Baeza, 1 ♀.

T. v. sclateri.—COLOMBIA: Bitaco Valley, Valle⁹, 1 ♂, 1 ♀; La Cumbre, 1 ♀⁹; Salencio, Cauca, 1 ♀⁸; San Antonio⁸, 2 ♂, 2 ♀, 1 (?); Ricaurte, Nariño, 1 ♀⁸.

T. v. tachirensis.—VENEZUELA: Táchira: Río Chiquito, 1 ♂ (type); Cerro El Teteo, Burgua, 1 ♀.

T. v. klagesi.—VENEZUELA: Anzoátegui, Lara, 1 ♀⁹; Cumbre de Valencia, Carabobo, 1 ♀⁸, 1 ♀⁹; Rancho Grande, Aragua, 1 ♂¹⁰, 1 ♂¹¹, 1 ♀¹¹; Colonia Tovar, 1 ♂, 1 ♀; Ño León, Dist. Federal, 1 ♂; El Junquito, 1 ♀, 1 (?); Ayapa, Perijá, Zulia, 1 ♀¹²; Jamayaujaina, 1 ♀¹²; Cerro Yamoré, 1 ♂¹².

¹⁰Specimens in U. S. National Museum.

¹¹Specimens in Rancho Grande Biological Station.

¹²Specimens in Pons Collection, Maracaibo.